(c) the prospects foreign private equity in coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

LTC Bills of Government Employees

2940. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the TA/LTC bills of Government employees who perform journey by private airlines are being rejected on the ground that they should have performed journey by Indian Airlines even though their claim is restricted to rail fare and no financial implication is involved;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the Flexi/Apex/Bidding Fares of private airlines are less than the fares of Indian Airlines; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. As per Supplementary Rules, travel at Government cost is to be performed by machines of public air transport companies only. It is only when the public sector air carriers do not ply on a particular route that the journey can be performed by Private Airlines. Although private carriers are giving many incentives yet with a view to patronize public sector air carriers it has been made mandatory for Government officers to travel by public sector air carriers at Government cost.

Appointment on Compassionate Ground

†2941. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees of State Bank of India in Himachal Pradesh who died in harness during 2001-2002;

(b) whether their dependants have been given employment on compassionate ground if so, the names of such persons, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.